



**SCOTTSDALE AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING
Scottsdale Airport Terminal Lobby
15000 N. Airport Drive, Scottsdale, AZ**

April 9, 2014

MINUTES

PRESENT: Steve Ziomek, Chairman
Ken Casey, Vice Chairman
Gunnar Buzzard
Michael Goode
Bob Hobbi
William Schuckert

ABSENT: William Bergdoll

STAFF: Sarah Ferrara, Aviation Planning & Outreach Coordinator
Shannon Johnson, Management Analyst
Gary Mascaro, Aviation Director
Chris Read, Airport Operations Manager
Aaron Sher, Aviation Intern

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ziomek called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A formal roll call confirmed the presence of Commissioners as noted above.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Ziomek led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

AVIATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gary Mascaro, Aviation Director, invited Chairman Ziomek to talk about his presentation to City Council the previous evening on the update to the U.S. Customs Service. Chairman Ziomek showed the slides used in his presentation, noting that he was applauded at the Council meeting. The meeting happened to be well attended as there was standing room only in the Kiva. At the end of the presentation there were no questions from City Council and the Mayor made some comments. Before the meeting, Mayor Lane had particularly requested that Chairman Ziomek emphasize that the initiative to expand Customs Service originated with the Commission.

Vice Chairman Casey thanked Chairman Ziomek for having made this presentation. Chairman Ziomek thanked staff for all their hard work on the expansion and for their help with the presentation. He added that he ended the presentation to Council by mentioning that this will help with Super Bowl visits next year.

Commissioner Goode commented that the Customs Service is not intended to be a profit center and he hopes that the program will be successful enough that they can lower the fees. At this point the fees at Scottsdale are high compared with some other airports such as Centennial.

Commissioner Hobbi asked about the revenue derived from the service. Mr. Mascaro said they have to make \$300,000 to cover the costs of the two officers. Because the expansion happened in February they will not have a solid idea until next fiscal year.

Commissioner Goode suggested keeping the customs service fees in a separate fund if possible to be able to buffer any fluctuations from year to year. Mr. Mascaro said the money is a line item in the Aviation Fund.

Chairman Ziomek summarized that no matter what happens, the figures are trending in the right direction.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting: March 12, 2014

Vice Chairman Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2014 regular meeting as presented. Commissioner Goode seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of six (6) to zero (0). Commissioner Bergdoll was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public wished to address the Commission.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS 1 - 9

1. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Application for Airport Aeronautical Business Permit for Sojourn Aviation, LLC to conduct Aircraft Sales Services

Management Analyst Ms. Shannon Johnson reported that Sojourn Aviation, LLC is seeking approval of their aeronautical business permit to conduct aircraft sales. They have provided all of the necessary paperwork.

Commissioner Goode made a motion to approve the application by Sojourn Aviation, LLC for an Airport aeronautical business permit to conduct aircraft sales services. Vice Chairman Casey seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of six (6) to zero (0). Commissioner Bergdoll was absent.

2. Discussion and Input regarding Monthly Operations Report for March 2014

Airport Operations Manager Mr. Chris Read presented the report, noting that the year over year comparisons of based aircraft are now accurate because the new database has been in use for a full year.

He noted that revenue from U.S. Customs Service is at \$251,400 year to date.

Chairman Ziomek commented that there had been zero fuel spills in February.

3. Discussion and Input Regarding Quarterly Noise Complaint Summary

Ms. Sarah Ferrara, Planning and Outreach Coordinator, presented an overview of the quarterly noise complaint report. One individual made 363 complaints.

Commissioner Hobbi commented there had been a spike of complaints in February and asked why. Ms. Ferrara said she has broken out the complaints that relate to military flights and will share that information with them. February was a busy month for the Airport and because the weather was so pleasant residents may have had their windows open more than usual.

Ms. Ferrara acknowledged that compared to the first quarter of 2013, complaints have almost doubled, although she noted that one complainant accounts for an average of four complaints per day.

Her analysis shows that in February 2014, 43 noise complaints out of the total of 227 did relate to military flights. This represents 19 percent of the total complaints. Ms. Ferrara added that 27 different individuals made complaints about the military flights. Because the request to break out military flights was made at the March Commission meeting, there is no previous data with which to compare it.

Commissioner Hobbi asked how many military flights used the Airport in February. Ms. Ferrara said she does not have that information. Commissioner Buzzard said he happens to know that the total for the quarter is 338, but he does not have that broken down by month.

Ms. Ferrara said she looked at the information day by day and found that on 12 days in February complaints about military flights were made. On February 26 alone 15 military related complaints were made.

Commissioner Hobbi said the percentage increases in noise complaints are a little alarming. He asked if there is something the Airport Advisory Commission can do to alleviate this. Chairman Ziomek said that following the discussion at the last meeting, Mr. Read has drafted recommended procedures for military flights. Ms. Ferrara distributed copies of the recommended procedures flyer, which is a quick reference guide on how to minimize disruption to residents. When military flights are coming to Scottsdale, Operations reminds them of the noise abatement procedures and requests that they do what they can to abide by these, given that so many homes surround the Airport.

At the request of Vice Chairman Casey, Mr. Read outlined the procedures for military flights. They have to give 24 hours' notice by calling Operations. Operations staff advise them of the noise sensitivity and asks them to be as quiet as possible. He reminded the Commission that this applies to all military flights from helicopters to transporters to fighters. The draft flyer is aimed at fighter-type aircraft. Once the information is in final form it will be posted on the website and emailed to pilots when they contact Operations.

Vice Chairman Casey asked if this procedure has always been in place. Mr. Read said the flyer is new and staff is putting more emphasis on asking military aircraft to keep noise to a minimum. The majority of flights do call in advance.

Commissioner Hobbi clarified that he does not intend to fixate on or blame the military. His concern is with overall noise complaints to the Airport. He challenged everyone to think about the upward trend in noise complaints. He appreciates the efforts of Operations but is very concerned about the spike in complaints.

Commissioner Goode commented that the numbers are skewed by the top complainer and if that person's complaints are taken out of the figures, the numbers are not significantly increased. He added that he has personally met with this individual and does not believe that this resident will ever change.

Commissioner Hobbi said this is a good discussion to have. He feels it is important to keep the issue before the Commission. He agrees that one individual is probably responsible for the apparent large increase. However, they should be very sensitive to any fluctuations. He believes it is a mistake to brush off the complaints or find ways to justify it because the numbers keep growing and eventually will reach a point where they would be forced to take other action. It is better to be proactive than reactive.

Chairman Ziomek said if the top complainer is taken out of the equation noise complaints are actually lower than over the last three years. He argued that the Commission's responsibility is to address issues over which they have direct control. The only thing they have control over at this point is the flyer with the military procedures.

Vice Chairman Casey stressed that he is not at all anti military. However, the increase in military traffic has been an issue. He pointed out that to get a true apples to apples comparison they would need to take out all complaints by the top complainer in previous periods, not just this past quarter. He asked how many military flights took place in the first quarter of 2013. He

noted that residents who are avowed supporters of the Airport nonetheless perceive the military jet noise as a big problem. Although there will always be some noise complaints and residents who complain frequently, he is still concerned about controlling the noise, because it is obvious that residents have complaints specific to military jets.

Chairman Ziomek said he feels what they are doing now is the only thing they can.

Commissioner Buzzard pointed out they have spent time discussing the 0.5 percent of operations, which is the percentage of military to other operations in 2013. Thus far in 2014, the percentage is 0.8 percent of all flights. He urged everyone to keep these numbers in perspective. This includes all military operations. He acknowledged that this is a jump and can be attributed to training flights which were conducted at the Airport. This is the first time in his six years on the Commission that this happened. It is good to put out the new procedures for military flights.

Commissioner Hobbi reiterated that he does not want to listen to the noise report without asking what can be done to counter the upward trend. He agrees they should not focus on the military. The issue is the number of complaints and he pointed out that many other residents are unhappy but do not formally complain to the Airport. This is just the tip of the iceberg. He feels a responsibility as a Commissioner to be concerned because this affects the health and future of Scottsdale Airport.

Commissioner Buzzard agreed that this is probably one of the top three items on the minds of the Commission. Commissioner Goode agreed with Commissioner Hobbi, noting that more apartments are being built within the Airport influence area. He recommended stating in the AFD that "All military aircraft **must** provide 24 hour notice prior to arrival."

Mr. Mascaro said the vast majority of military aircraft do in fact provide the required 24 hours' notice. The noise issue is not caused by unannounced flights. A number of factors contributed to the noise complaints in February. The nice weather was one major factor because pilots chose to fly under the cloud cover. He believes the focus should be on the true numbers, not skewed by prolific complainers. In his experience the individual complainers are more significant than the number of total complaints. He pays particular attention to first-time complainers and in February it is true that many of those had complaints about the military operations. A good proportion of their remarks were along the lines of "What was that?" rather than a formal complaint, but these were entered into the complaints section of the website so have to be counted as complaints. Mr. Mascaro said staff wants more detail to share with the military. In his 17 years of experience he has never dealt with a military pilot who did not support and respect the community upon request.

Chairman Ziomek thanked staff for preparing the report and said the Commission in his opinion needs to focus on reducing complaints. He added that after this year, Stage 2 aircraft will no longer be permitted to operate in U.S. airspace, which should alleviate some noise issues. Vice Chairman Casey said only one Stage 2 airplane is based at the Airport. He pointed out that as the Airport becomes quieter, any louder flights will be all the more noticeable.

Commissioner Goode commended Mr. Read, noting that the new edition of the AFD reflects that Customs service is available seven days a week.

4. Discussion and Input Regarding Revised Temporary Activity Permit Process

Mr. Mascaro introduced Airport intern Mr. Aaron Sher. Since January he has helped in a number of areas including runway taxiway checks, marketing, admin assistance and landscaping.

Mr. Sher made a presentation about temporary activity permits, which he and Ms. Ferrara have been working on. He explained that these are required to conduct commercial photography in the Airport, for construction activity, and special events. The main reason for temporary activity permits is to ensure that Airport and Airpark rules and regulations are adhered to for safety and security reasons. He worked on streamlining the process, particularly for special events. He reviewed the checklist which has been added to the Airport website.

Vice Chairman Casey asked how much advance notice is required to obtain a permit for a special event. Mr. Sher said a month or longer is preferable. Staff turnaround time is three days, however if the organizers also need a City permit that process is longer and more complicated. Commissioner Goode noted that in his experience it takes a couple of weeks to obtain a City permit.

Chairman Ziomek asked whether Zulu Caffé is exempt from the need for a temporary activity permit. Mr. Sher said if the restaurant holds an event inside the Terminal Building there is no need for a permit. Ms. Johnson said the temporary activity permits are needed for events past the taxi lanes. She said that it is better to apply for all permits with as much lead time as possible.

In response to a question from Chairman Ziomek, Mr. Sher said he is currently majoring in aeronautical management at ASU. He has held internships at international airports, but this is a new experience for him. He has always had a passion for aviation and is enjoying his internship a great deal.

Commissioner Hobbi commended Mr. Sher on giving a great presentation.

5. Discussion and Input Regarding Monthly Financial Reports for February 2014

Ms. Johnson presented the monthly financial report for February 2014. Revenues in February were about 11 percent above expectations, while expenses were approximately 20 percent below expectations. Revenue was 42 percent higher than in February 2013. The cash balance in the Aviation Fund was at \$9.4 million at the end of February. She explained that the accounts receivable aging report shows staff is effectively collecting accounts. The credit balances in parts of the report represent prepayment which some customers choose to do.

Commissioner Buzzard asked about the uncollected rent for Set Jet showing as an aged receivable. Ms. Johnson said this cannot be written off until the next fiscal year.

6. Discussion and Input Regarding Public Outreach Programs and Planning Projects

Ms. Ferrara said the NBAA has instituted a new booth lottery draw which the Airport is taking part in. This is a more complicated procedure than in the past.

Mr. Sher is assisting Ms. Ferrara in researching how social media can be used to publicize the Airport. She is learning Twitter herself and evaluating whether the Airport should have a Twitter account. She noted that Twitter could be a good tool in an emergency situation.

Mr. Mascaro shared that he and Mr. Read went to Tucson to observe that airport's triennial drill. They learned from the Tucson Fire and Police Chief and the Tucson Airport Public Information Office that Twitter is the key during an event. During the Asiana crash in Los Angeles and another emergency at Aspen, the websites went down because of heavy traffic and phone lines were jammed so the only way for responders and officials to share information with the media was through Twitter. In these situations people are instantly circulating photos from their cell phones and rumors rapidly spread. If the media is well informed they can broadcast accurate information rather than speculating and fueling rumors.

Ms. Ferrara said she is reviewing pilot guide information before reprinting it. On April 18 she will be making a presentation to a large group of realtors at the Grayhawk Community Center. She is enthusiastic about presenting to a group who are already knowledgeable and supportive regarding aviation.

Run the Runway took place last Saturday. Participation was 42 percent higher than last year. She found that the organizers were able to reach out to 20,000 people around the world through the use of social media. This is a wonderful way to bring people to the Airport who otherwise might never come. The runway was scheduled to reopen at 10:00 a.m. and they were able to reopen about ten minutes ahead of time.

Ms. Ferrara announced that the economic impact survey launched recently to Airport and Airpark businesses. A different survey was sent to aircraft owners. Mr. Sher helped her to create the surveys on SurveyMonkey. Staff is attempting to measure the economic benefits of these businesses and the ownership of the aircraft.

She confirmed that there have been no new developments with regard to the environmental assessment. Mr. Mascaro said his goal is to have the environmental assessment completed by the summertime because that is when potentially they could get funding for the federal projects. It is in the hands of the FAA.

Vice Chairman Casey asked why the NBAA has established a lottery system for booth space at their convention. Ms. Ferrara said the convention is growing in popularity and the idea is to level the playing field. The Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction will once again provide a car to attract visitors to the Scottsdale booth.

7. Discussion and Input Regarding Airport and Airpark Business Permit Additions, Cancellations or Revocations

Ms. Johnson reported that Independent Flight Instructors canceled their aeronautical business permit. Sojourn Aviation has been added. In the Airpark, Consolidated Holding canceled their hangar/shade leasing permit.

Vice Chairman Casey remarked that Set Jet still appears on the list. Ms. Johnson undertook to correct this.

8. Discussion and Input Regarding Status of Aviation Items to City Council

Mr. Mascaro reported that the Impact Church zoning change was approved last night by City Council.

9. Discussion and Possible Action to Modify the Airport Advisory Commission Meeting Schedule and Commission Item Calendar

No changes suggested.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None noted.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by AVTronics Inc., d/b/a AVTranz Transcription and Reporting Services